



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

Bill Pribil, Sheriff



Flagstaff Police Department



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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Winter Snow Play Advisory for New Years Weekend

Flagstaff, AZ – Wednesday December 30, 2009 and Thursday, December 31, 2009 were extremely busy days for the snow play areas located along the Highway 180 corridor with several of the more popular areas reaching capacity by 11:00 a.m. Representatives of the Coconino County Sheriff's Office, the Flagstaff Police Department, and the Arizona Department of Public Safety believe that Northern Arizona will receive an extremely high volume of winter recreation enthusiasts during the remainder of this Holiday Season.

Of particular concern is congestion on Highway 180 north of Flagstaff, since several popular winter recreation sites including Arizona Snowbowl, Flagstaff Nordic Center and Wing Mountain Snow play Area are located along the highway. Additional snow play locations that are not on the Highway 180 Corridor are also available and include: Mormon Lake Lodge and Happy Jack Lodge along Forest Highway 3 southeast of Flagstaff, and Fort Tuthill County Park, off of I-17 just south of Flagstaff.

In the past some of the more popular snow play areas fill up by noon. If you are using the Highway 180 Corridor please expect the possibility of heavy traffic congestion and significant delays. In the event of heavy congestion public safety agencies may offer alternative routes as you enter Flagstaff. Please consider these alternative routes as viable options. Remember you are here to have fun so please exercise patience and courtesy.

- **Know before you go** - Current information about where to go to play in the snow is available daily from the Flagstaff Visitor Center at 877-878-9377. A map of Winter Recreation sites in the Flagstaff-Coconino National Forest area is at <http://flagstaffarizona.org/documents/WinterRec.map.pdf>
- **Be prepared** for cold weather and winter driving conditions with a full tank of gas, chains, flashlight and other emergency items. Pack extra dry clothes, snacks, water and a trash bag.
- **Be safe** and aware. Don't park along the highway. Look before you slide. Watch out for hazards and other visitors. Bike helmets are recommended for safe sledders.
- **Be patient.** Highways through the Flagstaff area may be congested.
- **Leave no trace** other than footprints and snowmen. Take your trash with you.
- **Respect** private property and other locations where snow play and sledding is not appropriate.